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CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. William Leigh, of Danville, Va., has called our attention to the case of Chapman's Adm'x *v.* Norfolk & Western Railway Co., in which the lower court directed a verdict where the evidence disclosed contributory negligence as a matter of law; and the court of appeals refused a writ of error. Further comment here is unnecessary, as our views on this growing practice, expressed in a note to Taylor *v.* B. & O. R. Co., 14 Va. Law Reg. 769, have undergone no change since that time.

MISCELLANY.

Selection of Local Judges by the Local Bars.—Though the lateness of the hour prevented its consideration, the resolution offered last night at the meeting of the Richmond Bar Association by George Bryan, looking to a higher and more ethical method of filling the city judgeships, was undoubtedly in accord with the wishes of an overwhelming majority of the lawyers of the city. The resolution directs that candidates for such positions shall positively refrain from seeking pledges of support in any way, and that in the selection of the wearers of the ermine the members of the Richmond bar shall act judicially, rather than as individuals approachable by the requests of advocates of the various candidates for the municipal bench.

While by this resolution no reflection could be inferred in regard to the present judges, it was the predominating sentiment of the Bar Association that the proposition would work to the benefit of all interested in the future, and that the proposed step is in better accord with the ethics of the legal profession than the present mode.

The association, after listening with great interest to the remarks of the author of the resolution, Mr. Bryan, finally adjourned. A small warfare of parliamentary quibble had consumed so much of the time that it was thought best to leave the matter for the consideration of the next meeting, when Mr. Bryan will again introduce his resolution.

Stating the Case.—"At the present time our local judgeships are filled by incumbents who give every indication of good health and manifest no intention of resigning," said Mr. Bryan. "It is certainly proper, therefore, that a subject be now discussed which affects us all closely as lawyers and to the discussion of which at this time no exception can be taken upon the ground that it involves personal considerations, for a moment's thought will show that it does not in the slightest degree.

"Under a custom which has long obtained, the Legislature of Virginia has elected and in the vacation of the Legislature, the Governor